

roosting place. The under-noted measurements are those of three specimens which I could manage, with the aid of a bird-catcher, to snare with bird-lime :—

Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
Agarpara ...	... 30-1-31	67	47	19	18 mm.
Do. ...	... 31-1-31	66	46	18·5	17 mm.
Do. ...	... 1-2-31	69	47	19	17 mm.

So little is known about *Munia oryzivora* (L.) introduced into various parts of our country. There is no published record of its occurrence in Bengal. Yet the bird has had some success in its efforts to adjust itself to situations and circumstances unfamiliar to it. Will not this success claim for it a place among India's avifauna? The problem, fascinating as it is, admits of solution by closer observation and concerted effort of the ornithologists in this country.

50, KAILAS BOSE STREET, SATYA CHURN LAW.
CALCUTTA,
July 29, 1931.

[In an issue of the *Girl Guides' Magazine*, 1928, under Nature Notes, there is a record of a pair of Java Sparrows nesting near Poona.]

XV.—NOTE ON THE BREEDING OF THE INDIAN MOORHEN (*GALLINULA CHLOROPUS PARVIFRONS*).

Sir,

In his article on the Indian Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus parvifrons*) in the *Journal*, vol. xxxi, p. 542, Mr. Stuart Baker writes, *à propos* of its nesting, 'Hume seemed to think that they had two broods in the year in the hills, laying first in May and again in the latter half of July but other observers think they have only one set of eggs in the season'. It may be of interest to know that Hume was right, though a little out as to the times of laying.

There is in my garden a large tank, nearly 100 yards square, in the middle of which is a small island, covered and surrounded by a bed of reeds, on which are three or four trees growing. In the tank are several broad belts of white lotus, and there is a certain quantity of water weed of various kinds. The surroundings are quiet and the tank is a sanctuary, which is visited by a number of water birds. Major-General Sir James Johnstone, who was Political Agent fifty years ago, has recorded that geese were to be seen there in his time, and I have seen nine varieties of duck on the tank. Frequently one or two pairs of Whistling Teal (*Dendrocygna javanica*) breed on the island.

For some years past a pair of moorhens have yearly brought up a family on the tank. Though I have sometimes noticed a late brood, I have never actually seen two in a season, and always thought that a late family denoted the failure of a first brood. But this year I noticed the pair with two young ones (I subsequently saw a third), nearly as large as mynas on May 7. These young birds, now practically as large as the parents, are still on the tank. The day before yesterday I found the hen feeding on the lotus leaves near the bank of the tank. She was very agitated when she saw me, and ran over the leaves in the direction of the island, making the call which I have learnt to associate with the collection of her young. I watched, and saw three minute chicks, in black down, running over the leaves after her. Eventually they took to the water and all reached the shelter of the reeds.

Apart from young birds, I have never seen more than one pair of moorhens on the tank: I know of no water within half a mile of this tank where moorhens are to be found. I think there can be no doubt that the same pair of moorhens have brought off two broods, hatched (not laid) in late April and late July.

THE RESIDENCY, IMPHAL,
MANIPUR STATE,
July 28, 1931.

J. C. HIGGINS, I.C.S.

[Subsequent to the receipt of the above note Mr. Higgins, in a letter to the Society, says: 'In continuation of my letter of July 28, on the subject of the Indian Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), I may say that the second brood consisted of six, not three. I have seen the chicks several times, escorted sometimes by a parent, sometimes by one of the first brood, running about on the lotus leaves.

'On the 10th instant I saw one of the Whistling Teal (*Dendrocygna javanica*) on the tank escorting three very small ducklings about the lotus leaves.—EDS.]

XVI.—DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMATURE PLUMAGE OF THE INDIAN PRATINCOLE OR SWALLOW PLOVER (*GLAREOLA M. MALDIVARUM*).

We are greatly indebted to Mr. C. F. Jeffery, State Engineer, Manipur, Assam, for the above mentioned specimen, a description of which has not been recorded in the new *Fauna of British India*, Birds.

Forehead, crown and nape dark brown, the feathers faintly edged with buff; a well-defined supercilium creamy buff streaked with brown; whole upper plumage except rump brown, the feathers edged with buff forming crescents on the scapulars, wing coverts and lower back. Rump pure white; tail feathers blackish brown with broad white bases; tipped buff. First three primaries blackish brown; the remainder edged creamy white. Auxillaries and under-wing coverts rusty red. Chin and throat white, the sides of the neck streaked